

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00017 061001Z

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5375

S E C R E T MAPUTO 0017

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY AND SCHAUFLELE FROM EDMONDSON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH

SUBJ: RHODESIA: THRUST OF RICHARD'S MISSION

1. FOLLOWING DEBRIEFING ON IVOR RICHARD'S TALK WITH PRESIDENT KHAMA (GABORONE SEPTTEL) I ASKED RICHARD AGAIN WHETHER HE HAD DISCUSSED WITH IAN SMITH THE MATTER OF GETTING AFRICAN ASSURANCES ON CESSATION OF GUERRILLA WARFARE. HE SAID HE HAD NOT ALTHOUGH AT ONE POINT HE HAD ASKED WHETHER ACCEPTING A BRITISH RESIDENT COMMISSIONER WOULD NOT BE WORTHWHILE IF IT PRODUCED AN END TO THE WAR. IT WAS THIS QUESTION APPARENTLY WHICH PRODUCED SMITH'S RETORT THAT THE RHODESIAN'S WOULD RATHER FIGHT ON THAN ACCEPT A BRITISH COMMISSIONER, A REMARK RICHARD DOES NOT BELIEVE AND WHICH HE THINKS SIMPLY REFLECTS SMITH'S DISBELIEF THAT GUERRILLA WAR WOULD REALLY END.

2. RICHARD ADMITTED THAT HIS EMPHASIS ON ENDING THE WAR WAS A RELATIVELY NEW ELEMENT IN HIS TALKS. ALTHOUGH PART OF THE ORIGINAL FIVE POINTS, IT HAD BEEN TAKEN MORE OR LESS FOR GRANTED AT GENEVA. IN HIS TALKS WITH KAUNDA IT HAD BEEN MORE OR LESS ASSUMED THAT GUERRILLA WARFARE WOULD STOP ONCE AN INTERIM GOVERNMENT WAS SET UP.

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3. NOTING THAT A DOZEN OR SO REPORTERS WERE WAITING FOR A PRESS CONFERENCE WITH RICHARD, I ASKED WHETHER HE WAS PURSUING A PARTICULAR MEDIA OBJECTIVE, BY ARRANGING SUCH FREQUENT CONFERENCES WITH THE PRESS OR SIMPLY TRYING TO SATISFY THEIR PRESSURES TO SEE HIM. HE ANSWERED THAT HE WAS TRYING TO PROJECT THE IDEA THAT SOME POSITIVE STATEMENTS

ABOUT ENDING GUERRILLA WARFARE COULD HELP THE SITUATION,
THE SAME IDEA THAT HE WAS PURSUING IN HIS TALKS NOW.

4. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS YET WHETHER THE POINT 5 ISSUE
OF CEASING GUERRILLA WARFARE IS A REAL ONE THAT CAN KEEP
THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS GOING AND WIN VORSTER OVER OR WHETHER
IT IS GRASPING AT STRAWS. AS FAR AS THE GENEVA CONFERENCE
IS CONCERNED IT MAY BE THE LATTER. AS A CONTINUING ISSUE,
HOWEVER, IT MAY BE OF SOME IMPORTANCE BECAUSE, LIKE SOMETHING
NYERERE SAID EARLIER IN THE YEAR, WARFARE CAN
CONTINUE BUT SETTLEMENT WILL REQUIRE TALKS AT SOME STAGE.
SMITH MAY NOT BE INTERESTED AT THIS TIME BUT OTHER WHITE
RHODESIANS MAY BECOME MORE AND MORE INTERESTED AS THE WAR
GRINDS ON.
DE PREE

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